

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

=====

=

1. Name of Property

=====

=

historic name Norge Train Depot

other names/site number #047-5301

=====

=

2. Location

=====

=

street & number 7770 Croaker Road not for publication N/A

city or town Williamsburg vicinity X

state VA code 079 county James City County code 095 zip code 23118

=====

=

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

=

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

Date

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

=====

=

4. National Park Service Certification

=====

=

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_____ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the National Register
☐ removed from the National Register
☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper _____
 Date of Action _____

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Transportation Sub: Rail-related

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Work in Progress Sub: _____

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete Block/ Brick
roof Composition Shingle
walls German Siding, Board & Batten
other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☒ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Black Heritage
Social History
Transportation/Communication

Period of Significance c.1907-1969

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation Norwegian

Architect/Builder Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Company

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

=

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

=

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

=====

=

10. Geographical Data

=====

=

Acreage of Property 14.5 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
18	343096E	4138001N	2			3			4		

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

=

11. Form Prepared By

=====

=

name/title Meg Greene Malvasi

organization William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research date 1 February 2007

street & number 13803 Sterlings Bridge Road telephone 804.763.3595

city or town Midlothian state VA zip code 23112

=====

=

Additional Documentation

=====

=

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

=

Property Owner

=====

=

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name James City County c/o County Administrator

street & number 101-C Mounts Bay Road, P.O. Box 8784 telephone 757.253.6603

city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23187

=====

=

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA

Section 7 Page 1

=====

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

Summary Description

Located approximately 200 feet southwest of the James City County Library building on Croaker Road is the former Norge Train Depot; both the depot and the library are sited on an approximately fourteen-and-a-half acre parcel that includes a nicely landscaped lawn with trees and various plantings as well as woods. The depot, situated on a north-south axis, with a northwest-facing façade, sits on a slightly sloping area, approximately twenty-seven feet south from the library parking lot. To the south and the west are woods; to the north is the library parking lot and Croaker Road, to the east is the library building. The Norge Depot is a one-story, frame depot built in the early years of the twentieth century and is the only surviving example in the county of a Chesapeake, and Ohio Railroad Company’s standardized plans for its railroad depots. The depot’s architecture also reflects the growing trend on the part of all railroad companies to create standardized designs that could be mass produced, yet customized depending on the depot’s location. Even with the move to its new location, the building is reasonably intact, having only lost portions of the original flooring, and its two brick chimneys. Overall, the Norge Depot retains a great deal of its original materials and plan design. Faced with the threat of destruction by the CSX Railroad Company, the building was moved in early 2006 to its present site. The Norge Train Depot is eligible for listing under Criterion A in that it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and Criterion C in that the building embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Detailed Description

Exterior Description

Built to serve the small, but thriving community of Norge, Virginia, the Norge Railroad Depot was originally located at the southeast corner of Peach Street and the former Chesapeake & Ohio, (now CSX) railroad tracks. Built sometime between 1906 and 1908, the west-facing depot illustrated the growing interest on the part of the government and private businesses and industries to standardize the design, materials and construction for everything from train depots to life-saving stations to factories. The Norge Depot then, provides an interesting glimpse of how one American industry—the railroads—combined both machine production of building goods with distinctive designs for their buildings and grounds. In its original (and present) form, the Norge Depot is a simple one-story wood balloon frame building, twelve bays wide on the south side, seven bays wide on the north end, and one bay deep. The building measured approximately 89 feet long and 16 feet wide, a standard size for what railroad companies called a “small combination station.” The construction of the depot by the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company was such that the building was both utilitarian and sturdy, but also pleasing to the eye. To ensure that the building could withstand the constant speed and force of the passing trains, the building in its original site, rested on a foundation consisting of brick piers. These supports secured the heavy oak sill plates and joists and created a crawl space ranging from approximately two feet to about eighteen inches underneath the building. In addition, the brick base of the two interior brick flue chimneys also helped support the building with additional oak joists; this simple wood truss system anchored the depot for over a century. Originally hiding the building’s foundation was a wood platform that wrapped around the building.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 7 **Page** 2

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

To dress-up the depot’s rectangular mass, the exterior siding and trim were highly detailed. Beneath the 2/2 wood double-hung sash windows is a stylized dado-type element consisting of a wide painted exterior baseboard, wood board and batten panels and a simple sill course. Directly above the sill course are panels of German weatherboard with a molded band course. Double cornerboards further articulate each room’s openings in addition to the canted bay window of the agent’s office.

The hipped roof is no less detailed with its overhanging and slightly flared eaves, and boxed cornice covered with beaded board siding; the low roof also helped emphasize the building’s horizontal lines, making the building appear even more anchored and solid. Formerly, two brick interior chimneys with corbelled caps punctuated the roofline, marking the location of the two interior flues, adding some verticality to the building. On the south side, a slightly tented roof covers a five-sided canted bay window; a portion of this roof had a section removed to make room for the railroad signal as well to avoid potential mishaps with the larger diesel trains that later passed through Norge. The depot has a number of door and window openings. Located along the north wall of Peach Street is a large sliding door consisting of vertical board and horizontal battens and diagonal bracing. Marking the entrance was a raised wooden loading dock consisting of horizontal floorboards with smaller vertical boards covering the brace support system underneath. Both loading docks measure approximately 29 feet long, 6 feet wide, and stand approximately two feet high. Located on the south side of the building, facing the railroad tracks, was a similar door, and loading dock with a series of steps. The express freight entrances wood doors located both on the north and south walls had two large lights at the top half with herringbone-type diagonal bracing and wood surrounds on the bottom halves of each door with two-light transoms. Each door operated on a pulley system to open and close. The four waiting room passenger doors located on the north and south sides of the depot consist of four-recessed-paneled wood doors with wood surrounds with a two-light transom. Window openings consisted of single and

paired 1/1 and 2/2, wood sash with wood surrounds and sills. At one time, the depot had a wood sign painted with "Norge" which hung from brackets facing the road; in addition to another painted sign over the agent operator's office that faced the tracks. A third sign, situated on the east wall of the depot still remains.

Interior Description

The interior plan of the Norge Depot was typical of the combination station plan utilized by many railroad companies during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In this case, the depot's layout consisted of five rooms: the freight room, the express freight room, the "colored waiting room," which seated only African-American passengers, the "Master's" or station agent's office, and the "whites-only" waiting room. The freight room, located on the northernmost end, measures approximately 29 feet long by 16 feet wide. Covering the room's walls are board and batten siding along the top half and various sizes of horizontal oak boards on the bottom half. The floor consists of wide pine tongue and groove plank flooring, measuring approximately three inches deep. Located in the eastern corner of the room is a floor scale, marked "Fairbanks Standard #1." Supporting the roof is an exposed king truss construction. A single overhead light provided additional lighting at one time. Located at the southeastern corner of the room are two five-raised-panel doors with wood surrounds that lead to a small stairway with a bottom tread marked by a curved end into the express freight room.

The express freight room measures approximately 19 feet in width and 12 feet in length. The top half of the room's walls are covered in tongue and groove beaded board siding with beaded board wainscoting. On the interior south wall is a brick flue that once was connected to a wood stove. Covering the floor is tongue and groove pine wood strip flooring; the ceiling is beaded board with a simple crown molding. Similar wall and ceiling treatments are found in the remaining three rooms of the depot.

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA

Section 7 Page 3

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION (continued)

In the west corner of the express freight room, a five-recessed molded panel door leads to the area known as the "colored" waiting room, measuring approximately 15 feet wide and 14 feet long. In the northwest corner a small flight of steps with a curved bottom tread leads to another raised five-paneled door to the agent operator's office. This area's most prominent feature is the canted five bay window which dominates the south wall of the office. On both the east and west walls are openings for selling tickets to each waiting room. Built-in bookcases are also located on the east wall; the remains of the brick flue for a coal stove are located near the west ticket window. A small door similar to the others in the depot leads to a small stairway that descends to the 15 feet wide by 18 feet long white waiting room. Unlike the waiting room used by African Americans, the "white" waiting room is bigger and has an additional set of paired 2/2 windows on the west wall, providing additional air circulation. Located above a door in the northwest corner of the north wall room is the remnants of a small platform which probably held a fan.

Along with the depot, the C&O also built a small, one story wood frame and weatherboard building to the south of the depot. The side-gable roof shed was used for the storage of coal, and later, railway signaling equipment. At some point, the building was torn down.

By 1969, when the station ceased operation, the building became storage space for its new owner the CSX Railroad. Over the years, the building's condition deteriorated, becoming an easy target for vandalism and the weather. In 1987, a group of concerned citizens formed the Norge Railroad Depot Preservation Association that began raising funds to relocate and restore the depot. With the CSX announcing in 1997 that the building was to be demolished, the mission to save the station became even more urgent. Although the preservation group successfully negotiated with the company to donate the

building, there was no suitable site in mind. By 2003, arrangements were made thru a partnership with the James City County Historical Commission, James City County and local volunteers to move the building to its current location at the James City County Library. In the meantime, the building, although deteriorating, retained many of its original architectural features. A more intensive survey in 2005 noted that many of the building's windows and doors were boarded over, the interior floors in the "colored" waiting room were rotting, and hardware for the doors was missing except for their push plates. The exterior siding was more exposed and deteriorating as well and the station's sign was almost completely gone.

In February 2006, after a successful sixteen-year campaign to save the building from demolition, the Norge Train Depot was moved approximately one mile to its current location at the James City County Library grounds. In preparing for the move, the 75-ton building was lifted off the ground and placed on steel beams; underneath the beams were forty-two wheels that supported the building. On February 23, 2006, the depot began its slow journey to its new home. Over the course of three days, the depot, resting on its rollers, was pulled by a large truck and safely transported to its new home on the library grounds. The building was then placed on a new concrete and masonry foundation. Besides the loss of the original floors, the depot lost its two chimney hoods that will be rebuilt. Currently, plans are underway to repair and restore the Norge Depot to its former state; the building will then house a small museum about the depot's history and the history of Norge area.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 8 Page 4

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Originally located near the small Norwegian settlement of Norge, Virginia, the Norge Train Depot is an excellent example of the early twentieth-century standardization architecture used by the railroads. Not only that, the building is the last surviving depot of this type in the James City County area. Although mass-produced, the building was both sturdy and stylish as seen in its roofs, the interiors of the waiting rooms and the canted bay which marked the train agent's office. The depot is also a good example of what was known as a "combination station" that could be customized to serve the regional needs of its location. Faced with the threat of being destroyed by the CSX Railroad Company, the building was moved in early 2006 to its present site where it will be restored to its former state. The building is eligible for listing under Criterion A in that it is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history and Criterion C in that the Norge Depot embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Detailed Statement

The late nineteenth century was a "boom" time for the railroad industry throughout the United States. By then, thousands of miles of track had been laid to connect one coast to the other. State legislators also lobbied for railroad lines to connect various towns and cities, making it easier and cheaper to transport people and goods from place to place. As early as 1836, trains had begun to carry passengers and freight in Virginia. The Civil War delayed plans for the expansion of railroad lines, but beginning in 1867, only two years after the war had ended, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad (C & O) (known formerly as the Virginia Central) renewed efforts to expand the railway system in the state. Beginning in 1881, the C & O bought several parcels of land for a right-of way on which to build a railroad from Newport News to Richmond. The proposed line was known as the Peninsula extension. Originally part of "Foster's Plantation," the land on which the Norge Depot was formerly located was among the parcels obtained in 1881 from a prominent local businessman named Nathaniel Piggott.

Prior to the construction of the depot, Norge had only a freight stop known as Vaiden's Siding and used mainly by local farmers to haul produce and other agricultural products to market. For passenger service, residents of Norge had to travel approximately two miles west to the nearby town of Toano to catch a train. There was another need for a depot; beginning in 1896, the Norwegian-born railway agent, Carl M. Bergh, a recent arrival in James City County, saw the potential for a new community populated by Norwegian immigrants, who, unhappy with their lives in the Midwest, might be willing to come South to take advantage of available farmland. Mounting an aggressive newspaper and brochure campaign, Bergh attracted a large number of Norwegians to the area. A new depot would facilitate their travel and arrival. The design of the Norge Depot was one of several that came from the drafting tables of the C & O's contractors and architects; more important, the depot reflects the effort of railroad companies after the Civil War to standardize railroad architecture. By that time, rail companies needed a quick and inexpensive way to build the growing number of depots needed to accommodate the new railway stops that handled both passengers and freight traffic. The answer was to create a standard design that could be modified as needed.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 8 Page 5

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The notion of a depot design, built with interchangeable parts and machine-sawn lumber, fit neatly into the advance of mass production that characterized the burgeoning industrial age. After conducting several thorough studies, railroad company architects designed a number of stock blueprints with slight variations in style and size that fit the needs of a particular locale. At minimal cost, local railroad officials could also select from among a variety of features, including dormers, fancy gingerbread bracketing, finials and roof cresting, and, as in the case of the Norge Depot, a large five-sided bay window. These various decorative elements prevented depots from appearing standardized and monotonous.

The railroad companies also took into account, the best possible location for their depots, no matter the size. With Norge, the depot was going to serve a single-track line. According to John A. Droege, a General Superintendent with the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroads, this type of situation meant that the depot could be located on either side of the tracks. However, Droege cautioned, "It is advisable . . . to place it upon that side from which most of the persons who patronize . . . come, as that will save them from crossing the tracks more than is absolutely necessary."¹ This arrangement too made it easier for carriages to approach the station and as a cost-saving measure allowed the depot grounds confined to a smaller area. Railway companies also took greater pains as to where to locate their buildings. Formerly, train stations and depots were placed in the poorer and dirtier parts of the community. By improving on the architecture and landscaping, railroad companies now represented a local civic pride that emphasized not only standardization and efficiency, but also beauty and eye-pleasing designs.

The year in which construction of the Norge Depot was completed is unknown. Many sources have cited 1908 as the most probable date. This surmise is plausible, but because there is no record of a separate land deed, it remains difficult, if not impossible, to pinpoint an exact date. C & O records are also incomplete. According to Mr. Thomas W. Dixon Jr., C & O historian, many of the company's records were destroyed or lost as the company offices moved over the years. However, based on available data located at the Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Society, the C & O in its annual report for 1907 approved the sum of \$2557 for the construction of a depot at Norge. By March 1907, a drawing of the proposed depot was completed. It stands to reason that construction began shortly thereafter, and was finished sometime in 1908.

The rail companies' own "bridges and buildings gangs" constructed the depots. In the case of the Norge Depot, the C & O relied on Drawing-269 to complete. Nothing was left to chance; even the interior and exterior painting directions were explicit and detailed. Every depot was to be painted in the rail company's signature colors. Further, instructed the company, the "exterior painting to be three coat lead and oil of colors specified." In addition, all areas were to be "properly puttied."² At that time, the depot was most likely painted a buff or yellow ochre color with white trim accentuating the window and door surrounds as well as the freight door braces and cornerboards. In the 1920s, the railroad changed its color scheme to medium gray complemented by light gray trim. Combined with a company's distinctive architectural elements, the paint colors provided one of the earliest examples of corporate advertising and company identification in the United States. In addition, the area around the depot was beautifully landscaped, another attempt by the railway companies to present a pleasing picture to those waiting for trains or those who traveled by. An older resident of Norge remembered:

Beside the station was beautiful garden spot for passengers to enjoy while they waited for the train. It was green with closely clipped grass. The surrounding area was shielded by forsythia bushes and in the center was a circular bed of cannas. The grass along the tracks was green and neatly mowed.³

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 8 **Page** 6

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The depot quickly became a busy social and business center for the town of Norge. Passenger trains stopped at the depot twice a day. Many of the arrivals were Norwegian immigrants coming to Norge in the hope of beginning a new life. Special excursion trains carrying people to the nearby beaches ran daily during the summer months. Passenger trains also delivered first-class mail four times a day; parcel post items came by freight train. A railroad agent manned the depot twenty-four hours a day. During the First and Second World Wars, countless servicemen and women traveling to and from nearby military installations passed through the Norge Depot, as did much of the materiel needed for the war effort. By the 1950s, however, the trains stopped carrying mail. Passenger service also ended, though some freight activity continued. In October 1969, the Norge Depot closed. When CSX purchased the C & O in 1980, the building became a storage facility.

An excellent example of standardized railroad architecture, the Norge Depot also demonstrates how such uniform designs were modified to serve a particular need, particularly in the case of depot waiting rooms. During the late nineteenth century, segregation of the sexes, and the races deemed necessary the inclusion of two waiting rooms in railroad depot design. At a time when society still believed that women needed protection from the rough and noisy goings-on of a male-dominated world, in this case, the railway station, it was only fitting that a separate room be set aside for women to relax while waiting for their trains. These separate waiting rooms also provided additional safety for women traveling alone or with children. A two waiting room plan also provided a way for Southern rail depots to comply with race relations. With the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896) institutionalized segregation between blacks and whites became the norm. By simply removing one sign—"For Women Only"—and replacing it with another—"For Colored Only"—and providing separate entrances and exits, the Norge Depot maintained the culture of the "Jim Crow" South. In the Norge Depot, the waiting room for African-American passengers was located between the noisy and dirty freight rooms and the station agent's office. Without benefit of the third windows provided at the south end of the depot for white passengers, the "colored" waiting room was less airy, quiet, and comfortable—separate, but not quite equal.

In 1997, CSX made plans to demolish the Norge Depot, but instead agreed to donate the building to James City County once the depot was moved to its new location. Almost a decade later, in February 2006, the county successfully moved the building to a site adjacent to the James City County Library, a branch of the Williamsburg Regional Library system. Preservation of the Norge Depot is an asset to the town of Norge itself, as well as to James City County and the entire region. The depot is among the few remaining examples of early twentieth-century train depots in central Virginia. The Norge Train Depot is important architecturally as an example of the standardized architecture utilized by the C & O Railroad Company. In addition, it also offers a window into social history, reflecting the racial climate prevalent throughout Virginia and the South at the time of its construction, to say nothing of recalling a bygone era in which people and goods moved across the country by rail.

Endnotes:

- ¹. John Albert Droege, John Albert. *Freight Terminals and Trains*. (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1916), p. 255.
2. Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Company, Chief Engineers Office, "Standard Painting For Frame Stations," Drawing S-269.
3. Nancy Smith Bradshaw and Frances Hamilton, "Velkommen til Norge" *Chesapeake and Ohio Historical Magazine*, Vol.XXI, No. 9, September 1989, p. 10.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 9 **Page** 7

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aron, Paul. "Norge Depot Wins \$75,000," *The Virginia Gazette*, Saturday June 23, 2001, p. 1A+.

Bell, Cary. "Norge Depot is halfway home," *The Virginia Gazette*, February 25, 2006, p. 12A.

_____. "Depot recalls Norge in its prime," *The Virginia Gazette*, March 1, 2006, p.4A.

Bradshaw, Nancy Smith and Frances Hamilton. *Velkommen til Norge: A Pictorial History of Norge, Virginia*. Taylor Publishing Company, 1989.

_____. "Velkommen til Norge," *Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Magazine*, Volume XXI, No. 9, September, 1989, pp. 7-10.

Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Society, located at: <http://www.cohs.org/>

Deed Book 1, James City County

Deed Book 2, James City County

Deed Book 4, James City County

Deed Book 688, James City County

Dixon, Thomas W. Jr., "C. & O.H.S. Assists In Newport News Railroad Centennial Celebration," *Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Magazine*, Volume XIII, No. 12, December, 1981, pp.13-15.

_____. Interview, September 2005.

Droege, John Albert. *Freight Terminals and Trains*. New York: McGraw-Hill Book Co., 1916.

Grant, H. Roger and Charles W. Bohi, *The Country Railroad Station in America*, Sioux Falls, SD: Center for Western Studies, 1988.

James City County Plat Map, Book 1, February 4, 1905, p. 12.

James City County Land Tax Records.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 9 Page 8

Lyon, Ed. "C&O's Norge depot moved to a new location," *Chesapeake & Ohio Historical Magazine*, June 2006, pp.15-18.

Malvasi, Meg Greene. "Norge Depot," Intensive level Survey, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, September, 2005.

McCartney, Martha. *James City County: Keystone Of The Commonwealth*, Virginia Beach: The Donning Company Publishers, 1997.

Meeks, Carroll Louis Vanderslice. *The Railroad Station*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1956.

Potter, Janet Greenstein. *Great American Railroad Stations*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

Reid, R. "Norge Depot," Reconnaissance Level Survey, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, December 9, 1990.

_____. "Norge Historic District," National Register Nomination, Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Stilgoe, John. *Common Landscape of America, 1580 to 1845*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982.

_____. *Metropolitan Corridor: Railroads and the American Scene*, New Haven: Yale University Press, 1983.

Traser, Donald R. *Virginia Railway Depots*, Philadelphia: National Railway Historical Society, 1998.

Vrooman, Rona. "Norge Train Depot: A moving story about historic preservation," *Virginia Town & City*, Volume 41, No.7, July 2006, pp.10-13.

Walter, Shane. "Rails & revival," *The Virginia Gazette*, July 16, 1997, p. 4A.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section 10 **Page** 9

Boundary Justification

All that certain lot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Stonehouse District, James City County, Virginia, being known and designated as Parcel 2, containing 14.507 acres as shown on that certain plat entitled "A Survey of 49.7915 Acres Standing in the Name of Ellen Taylor Howard For Conveyance To Norge Center, Inc, " made by AES, a professional corporation, Engineering, Planning, Surveying, Williamsburg Virginia, dated January 28, 1987, a copy of which plat is duly of record in the Clerk's Office of the Circuit Court for the City of Williamsburg and County of James City, Virginia, at Plat Book 44, page 83, to which plat references made of a complete description of the property herein conveyed.

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries were drawn to include the building historically associated with the property and to coincide with the boundaries of the property deeded by Norge Center, Inc. to James City County Government on May 9, 1994.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Norge Train Depot
James City County, VA**

Section Photographic Data **Page** 10

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Norge Train Depot Location: James City County, VA

Date of Photographs: May, June 2007 Photographer: Shawn Gordon, James City County

Digital images archived at Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

VIEW OF: North Elevation
PHOTO 1 of 16

VIEW OF: Northeast corner of façade
PHOTO 2 of 16

VIEW OF: Northwest corner of facade
PHOTO 3 of 16

VIEW OF: Closeup, Freight Dock Doors
PHOTO 4 of 16

VIEW OF: East Elevation
PHOTO 5 of 16

VIEW OF: West Elevation
PHOTO 6 of 16

VIEW OF: Rear South Elevation, west corner
PHOTO 7 of 16

VIEW OF: Detail, Agent's Office Bay Window
PHOTO 8 of 16

VIEW OF: Detail, Freight Door, Express Room
PHOTO 9 of 16

VIEW OF: "White" Waiting Room, south view
PHOTO 10 of 16

VIEW OF: "White" Ticket Window, from Agent's
Room
PHOTO 11 of 16

VIEW OF: "Colored" Waiting Room
PHOTO 12 of 16

VIEW OF: "Colored" Waiting Room
PHOTO 13 of 16

VIEW OF: "Colored" Ticket Window, Agent's
Room
PHOTO 14 of 16

VIEW OF: Agent's Room, South Elevation
PHOTO 15 of 16

VIEW OF: Stairs, Rail Express Room to Freight
Room
PHOTO 16 of 16